



from the desk of
REPRESENTATIVE SUZANNE CROUCH

Dear Neighbor,

As my constituent, you told me you were concerned about jobs and property taxes. I heard you and now return from the 2010 legislative session with positive results.

A top priority this session was getting unemployed Hoosiers back to work, so I voted for a one year delay on tax increases for businesses on their unemployment insurance premiums. Employers need an economic climate that encourages hiring new employees. I believe this tax delay will give employers a chance to get their business back on steady legs and protect jobs for Hoosier workers.

More jobs will be created thanks to a public private partnership to build the Illiana Expressway. The toll road would connect Interstate 65 in Northwest Indiana with an Interstate in Illinois. This project is similar to the Major Moves legislation that provided the funding mechanism for I-69. Most importantly this construction will create many jobs for Hoosier workers.

To ensure that property tax reform is permanent, I supported this session a resolution to give Hoosiers the opportunity to vote in the fall general election on making the current property tax caps constitutional. You will have the opportunity to vote November 2nd on this important issue.

Please continue voicing your opinions because together we can make Indiana the best state in which to live, work, and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Crouch
Suzanne Crouch



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2010

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

SUZANNE CROUCH

SUZANNE CROUCH

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • HOUSE DISTRICT 78



CREATING HOOSIER JOBS

I voted for legislation that authorizes the use of public-private partnerships for the construction of the Illiana Expressway in Northwest Indiana and the Ohio River Bridges project in Southern Indiana. These two projects would use the same funding mechanism that has allowed construction of I-69 and have the potential to create more than 10,000 jobs. Other job friendly legislation I voted for was the New Employer Tax Credit which allows new businesses that locate in Indiana starting January 1, 2010 to receive a tax credit for two years equal to 10% of the wages paid for each newly created job. I will continue to support initiatives that make Indiana an attractive environment for job growth.



INCREASING GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

I voted to strengthen the ethics laws of state government. One of the major provisions is the mandatory “cooling off period,” where legislators must wait at least one year after leaving office until they can become a registered lobbyist. Another provision lowers the threshold for reporting gifts to legislators from \$100 to \$50. This measure will help boost public trust in state government and improve transparency in the lobbying process.



SUPPORTING SCHOOL FUNDING FLEXIBILITY

I voted to help schools statewide redirect up to \$60 million to help fill gaps that came as a result of the state funding reductions. I believe this additional money will help with teacher job retention during these difficult economic times.

CONTROLLING SPENDING



Another focus I had this session was to make certain that there would be no new tax increases. Unlike Washington, D.C., I believe the State of Indiana is making prudent fiscal decisions. In my opinion, it is simply not an option to raise Hoosier taxes due to our state government’s budget shortcomings. We first must live within our means. Increasing taxes should never be our first resort, but rather our last. I was pleased that no new taxes were passed this session.

CAPPING GOVERNMENT’S GRASP ON YOUR TAXES

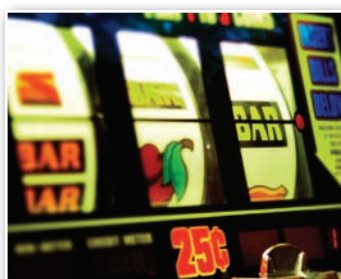


One of my top priorities this session was protecting Hoosier taxpayers. I first voted to pass property tax caps in 2008 and now taxpayers will have the opportunity to vote in November on approving this change to the Indiana Constitution. Constitutional property tax caps will ensure the permanency of the property tax reforms begun in 2008. I also voted to delay the Unemployment Insurance tax increase which would have increased taxes on more than 72,000 employers that own a small business that employs anywhere from 1-49 employees.



SUPPORTING HOOSIER VETERANS

I voted to protect veterans from debt collectors who try to collect from service members’ disability benefits. I also supported legislation to ensure that all Indiana National Guard members returning from active duty service receive face-to-face care from a professional mental health provider if they need it to help with the stress of combat.



CRACKING DOWN ON DEADBEAT PARENTS AT CASINOS

I voted to help families collect some of the \$2 billion in yearly unpaid child support payments. Individuals who win a certain amount of money at Indiana casinos will have their names checked against a database that contains deadbeat parents who have not paid child support. If their name appears in the system the amount they owe would be subtracted from their winnings and paid to help support their child.

My Web site is www.in.gov/h78